

DRJA Registry JAN 1976

File

OJCS #

004/76

SAFE

31. Why, when we eliminated SAFE from the FY 1976 budget, are you seeking funds for it again in 1977?

We are again seeking funds for the SAFE system in Fiscal Year 1977 because I firmly believe that we will not be able to adequately produce timely and comprehensive intelligence that will be required of us in the 1980s without it. New "real time" collection systems are providing more and more information to the intelligence analyst which, if advantage is to be taken of this timeliness, must quickly be weighed, collated with other information already available to him, and synthesized for the policymaker. Policymakers, in turn, are increasingly expecting our analyses to be in real time.

Thus, our analysts are being bombarded from both sides. To date we have spent billions on exploiting technological opportunities to improve collection as well as hundreds of millions on processing the information thus collected. However, we have spent little on the analyst who must quickly transform this rapidly increasing flow of high-quality information into finished intelligence. Analysts are still receiving, collating, analyzing, storing and retrieving this information in much the same way they did 20 years ago.

We are requesting funds for SAFE because I believe that it is absolutely essential to the ability of the analyst to do this new job.

Equally important is SAFE's capability to provide us with greater confidence that all information relevant to an analytical problem has been retrieved from the rapidly increasing store of information and has been made available to the analyst.

32. What capabilities will be lost if funds are reduced?

SAFE is a phased developmental project over the next five-year period. Its major costs are for hardware procurement and software development. Fund reductions will "stretch out" the system's operational date thus delaying our program for improving intelligence production. In this "stretch out" period, analysts will continue to use their manual systems and parts of SAFE that are operational resulting in a "double" system and a slower payoff on the investment. "Stretching out" SAFE would increase the proliferation of individual incompatible systems, and make it difficult for SAFE to dovetail into existing or other planned systems, and inevitably increase the system's overall cost.

33. Are there any aspects of SAFE which could be developed gradually or applied only where absolutely necessary or where a high certainty of return is probable?

The development plan calls for a phased implementation but the need for a large initial increment is crucial to avoid building the seeds of obsolescence into the initial system. The present concepts in SAFE were and are currently being tested with a small model implemented in mid-1973 for a limited number of production analysts; users thus have determined what functions are absolutely required and those that would be "nice to have." In collecting users' data for system design, many capabilities have been identified but not yet built in the system at this time because of expense. It would be counter productive to make this large initial investment and then compromise the system's "required" functional capabilities.

34. How will you assure that SAFE will not be obsolete by the time it is eventually operational?

SAFE is being developed with tomorrow-in-mind as well as today. The system design must accommodate changing technology, applications, and environment without disruption of service. The supporting software will be modular and able to adjust to changing analytical environments, new intelligence collection outputs or unanticipated peak loads caused by world crises. I do not see any obsolescence danger in a system that is able to adjust to the research environment it supports. Flexibility is designed into the system.

35. What is the ADSTAR program, and how is it related to SAFE?

The ADSTAR (Automated Document Storage And Retrieval) program replaces the Agency's manual central system for storing and retrieving classified positive foreign intelligence documents with a computer-driven system utilizing either digitalized storage or high-reduction microfilm medium for the document images. The manual system is output bound, labor intensive, and slow. Since ADSTAR will provide faster response times, a capability for remote document viewing, and an increased capacity for handling SAFE service demands it will considerably enhance SAFE's capabilities. Nevertheless, ADSTAR is a "stand alone" system and is needed for its rapid capability to store and retrieve documents.

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Remarks: <p style="text-align: center;">Attached are answers to SAFE budgetary questions developed for the Director's presentation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Harry</p>					
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14 MAY 1975

DD/A Registry
File 04 M-9

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Hiring of ADP Personnel for Project SAFE

REFERENCE: Memo to DCI fr DDI and DDA dtd 10 Apr 75;
Subject: Project SAFE (ER 75-1775)

You may recall that in approving the management concept for SAFE you prefaced your approval with the note that the 12 additional positions needed by OJCS would be sorted out in your July Review. In a meeting today with the DDI and the DDA, I agreed that progress toward a firm definition of the scope, schedule and cost of SAFE should not await the results of July. As a result OJCS may go overstrength on SAFE as much as six people (one of whom could be an SPS or supergrade) by the end of the year. It is imperative that they hire these key managers from the outside as soon as possible.* We will still sort out where the positions come from in July.

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[Redacted Signature Box]

JOHN D. IAMS
Comptroller

* We should still be within ceiling at the end
of the year.

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